

Message Text

PAGE 01 NAHA 00060 081019Z

21 11
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
----- 101168
P 080832Z FEB 74
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1296

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 060

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL BEXP
SUBJECT: OKINAWA OCEAN EXPO 75 - AMERICAN CHAIRMAN?
REF: TOKYO 1735

1. THE REFERENCED EMBASSY MESSAGE REPORTS ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MOFA AND JAITE ON THE SELECTION OF AN AMERICAN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSIHNERS GENERAL. WE QUESTION, HOWEVER, WHETHER WE SHOULD WANT AN AMERICAN IN THAT POSITION, AT LEAST FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF AMERICAN LOCAL INTERESTS ON OKINAWA.
2. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE EXPO HAS BEEN A CONTROVERSIAL MATTER IN LOCAL POLITICS IN OKINAWA, WITH THE LEFTISTS BLAMING IT FOR A VARIETY OF ECONOMIC ILLS. ALTHOUGH THE COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN

PAGE 2 RUAOBQA3521 C O N F I D E N T I A L
DAMPENED DOWN BY THE RECENT GOJ "REEXAMINATION" OF EXPO PLANS, WHICH RESULTED IN THE SHORT POSTPONEMENT OF THE OPENING, THE LEFTISTS HERE WILL UNDOUBTED Y CONTINUE TO RAISE CHARGES AGAINST EXPO. THE OTHER FAVORITE LEFTIST TARGET HERE IS, OF COURSE, THE AMERICAN PRESENCE, AND IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE SELECTION OF AN AMERICAN CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSIONERS GENERAL WOULD GIVE THE LEFTISTS AN EXCUSE TO LUMP EXPO SOMEHOW WITH OUR BASE PRESENCE. LOCALLY AT LEAST IT WOULD SEEM BETTER IF THE CHAIRMANSHIP WERE HELD BY SOMEONE ELSE FRIENDLY LIKE A CANADIAN.

3. SAYING THE ABOVE DOES NOT, HOWEVER, CHANGE OUR VIEW THAT IT WILL BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR OUR INTERESTS ON OKINAWA TO HAVE

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A RESPECTABLE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE EXPO ITSELF.
SYLVESTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, BUSINESSMEN, MEETINGS, CULTURAL EXHIBITS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NAHA00060
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P740146-1301
From: NAHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740268/abbrzbcq.tel
Line Count: 53
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NAHA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OKINAWA OCEAN EXPO 75 - AMERICAN CHAIRMAN?
TAGS: SCUL, BEXP, JA, US
To: TOKYO INFO STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005